STATEiMENT

List of Defaulters of Minimum Guarantee (MG)

(Rs. in crores)

SI. No.	Name of the Company	MG Amount Outstanding (excluding interest)
I.	M/s ABCL	17.65
2.	M/s Plus Channel	10.13
3.	M/s Nimbus Communications	6.12
4.	M/s Multi Channel	15.00
5.	M/s Drishti India	3 50
6.	M/s Media Asia	1.46
7.	M/s Pritish Nandy Commimications	3.48
8.	M/s Advance TV	2.48
9.	M/s Market Movers	3.19
10.	M/s Dawn Mod	4.21
11.	M/s Uranus	1.40
12.	M/s Rathore Films	1.04

Reservation for Handicapped in Private Sector

*326. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 384 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th February, 2000 and state :

(a)whether Government have proposed to introduce reservation for the handicapped in private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other measures proposed to ensure social justice to the handicapped ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) There is a proposal to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Right and Full Participation) Act, 1955 in order to improve and strengthen the Act and to make it a powerful instrument for promoting equality, participation and protecting the rights of persons with disability. However, it is not final.

(c) The persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1955, enacted from Feb., 1996 is an important landmark in Government of India's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and their full participation in nation-building. It provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

The implementation of the provisions of the Act, requires a multi-sectoral collaboratives approach, of all Ministries of the Central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. Thy have all been requested to take necessary action expeditiously. The following action have been to implement various provisions of the Act:

(1) The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been operationalised with effect from 24-10-97 to support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled.

(2) Notification of Central Co-ordination Committee as per Section 3 of the Act. The Committee has undertaken two meetings so far.

(3) Central Executive Committee has been notified. The Committee took four meetings so far to review the progress of implementation of the Act.

(4) The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabihties has been appointed and he has assumed the office w.e.f 1-9-98.

(5) Five Core Groups of expert and relevant Ministries have been set up to make recommendations and formulate scheme to give effect to various provisions of the Act

(6) Rules under Section 73(1) and (2) have been notified.

(7) The National Fund for People with Disabilities, which was set up under the Charitable Endowment Act, 1890 on 11-8-1983, has been activated and assistance has been sanctioned to non-government agencies. So far, 17 Projects have been sanctioned under the Scheme.

(8) A Scheme, namely, Viklang Bandhu has been formulated to provide training to disabled volunteers. The National Institutes and Regional Rehabilitation Training Centre have so far trained a number of Viklang Bandhus.

(9) A Bill for setting up a National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been passed to provide support to those vulnerable categories and their families

(10) The Rehabilitation Council of India, which is statutory body for standardisation and training of rehabilitation professional, recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals, has recently taken up a plan for man-power in disability rehabilitation throughout the country. Funds have been allocated to RCI for this purpose.

(11) More State Governments have constituted State Coordination Committee and State Executive Committee and have appointed Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, to redress the grievances of the disabled persons.

(12) A Conference of State Secretaries, in-charge of persons with disabilities was held on 14-15, Feb., 2000 at New Delhi to discuss

the implementation of the Act. A Workshop of State Education Secretaries and State Labour Secretaries was also held at new Delhi to sensitise the State officials and to monitor the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

(13) An Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to monitor the progress made by the Central Ministries who have specific obligations under the Act,

(14) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(15) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to eifectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry of SJ & E has established six National/ Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability. These institutes are apex-level organisations in the field of education, training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation and development of suitable service modules for the disabled.

(16) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur was established in November, 1972 as a Public Sector Company with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to them throughout India. It manufactures wheel chairs, tricycle, artifical limbs, crutches and many other aids and appliances for the handicapped persons.

(17) The District Rehabilitation Centre Scheme (DRC) was initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled right at their door step in 11 districts of the country. Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) have also been set up at

Chennai, Mumbai, Cuttack and Lucknow for training and manpower development in the field of rehabilitation, particularly for the DRCs.

(18) Under the Scheme of Employment of the Handicapped financial assistance is given to States for running special employment exchanges and normal employment exchanges, for persons with disabilities.

(19) For providing suitable and cost-effective aids and appliances and improving the mobility and enhancement of employment opportunities for the disabled, the scheme of Science or Technology Project in mission Mode has been launched. Under this project, financial assistance is provided for generation of new technologies and guiding these to large scale use to meet social needs.

(20) 3% reservation for the disabled in Government establishments is in operation since 1977 in respect of Group C & D identified posts. After enactment of the Act, this reservation has been extended in Groups A & B identified posts vide DOPT's order dated 18-2-97. Identification of posts for persons with disabilities in Group A, B, C & D posts has already been done in 1986. DOPT has also issued clarification that the existing identification of posts done in 1986 shall remain valid, till the same is modified by the Government of India, Instructions have also been issued vide letter dated 17-9-99 that all the recruiting agencies while sending the requisitions to the UPSC. SSC. etc. for filling up of posts, which ha\c been identified as suitable for being manned by persons with disabilities, should furnish a certificate to the agencies that the policy relating to 30% reser\'ation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of A circular dated 4-7-1997 is also issued by DOPT providing points No. 1, 34 & 67 in cycle of 100 vacancies in the 100 point register for reservation for the disabled persons, instead of point No. 33, 67 & 100 prescribed earlier, for the persons with disabilities in the posts filled by promotion.

(21) The Ministry has set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (SJ&E), to review the

existing identification of posts (done in 1986) and to identify more suitable posts.

Further, the Government have recently formulated several schemes specifically for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. These include.—

(i) Six Composite Regional Resource Centres (CRCs) are being set up in different parts of the country to provide services for different kinds of disabilities as outreach extension centres of the National Institutes in the disability sector;

(ii) Four Regional Rehabilitation Centres (RRCs) for persons with spinal injuries and orthopaedic disabilities are being set up as a Central Sponsored Scheme with Centre and State share on 90 : 10 basis to strengthen the services.

(iii) Four Auxiliary Production Centres of Artificial Limb Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) are being set up to expand the production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances.

(iv) A new four tier-scheme namely. National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with disabilities has been recently approved in the State sector for implementation in order to create infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped. Funds are being released to the State Goveriunents for implementation of the Scheme.

(v) In addition, over hundred districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Serv'ices identified include setting up of composite fitment and rehabilitation centres in collaboration between the National Institutes/Artificial Lims Manufacturing Corporation of India/District Rehabilitation Centres under the Central Government and the District administration/State Government respectively.